

time we milked the cows anywhere without tying up or cropping the same, and the milking stools might be lying about anywhere. But when we ventured upon a higher standard of pedigree, the temper of the cattle in general was not so mild. So of course, the cowshed was built, which certainly was an improvement on wet days, but the concentration in the yard, soon made it become a quagmire. We were not endued with sufficient wisdom to have an opening at the front of the Cales so that when the cow was milked she could be passed through, but each cow was separately called up a simple process, with a bar adjusted & held in position with a peg. When the peg was released the bar fell aside, & the cow backed out & took her place again amongst the rest of the unmilked cows. When milking was over the gate was opened and the whole lot went out through the same gate that they had come in, only in the opposite direction. The yard was seldom cleaned out, in summer of course it gradually dried up, but there was often a big accumulation of muck. There was unlimited supplies of metal to be obtained at very little cost but people did not think of the idea of concreting the yards. When settlement began to take place, and afterwards in the Saranake district, where dairying ~~was~~ became the absolute

industry, different methods began to be applied, and on the whole conditions are much improved in every way, & it was soon learned to discard the original idea, and to adopt a method of doing without Cales, to have an open door way in front & so let the cows pass through, to have concrete ceiling & holding yards, plentiful supplies of hot water, ..

To go about in the mud however, is not the dreadful thing it was in earlier times. Then there were no such thing as gum boots, rubber had not come into its own. Our ordinary working boots were of course water tight or supposed to be, but this only applied to the height of the uppers, above that there was the possibility of the water or mud being deeper. To keep the ^{over} ^{dry} ~~feet~~ we had leggings but these were strapped on, & not altogether water tight. One can plunge away through mud now without much inconvenience and the gum boots are easily cleaned. But in those early times, oh what cold feet we got, & how bitter on a winters morning. If it was an extra hard frost we might possibly get half way across the frozen mud, before the surface broke & we went down, each separate